

## LOIS LINTON – My Eagle Forum Story

It was 1973 when I woke up to the fact that the world I was living in was rapidly devolving around me. Roe v. Wade became law in January and my church was totally silent. Our three oldest children were in the public schools in a very Republican part of St. Louis County.

My husband and I had been involved in school board elections from the beginning of our marriage. Bible Study Fellowship had come to our city and I was introduced to this life changing study in the Minor Prophets and it was there that I met Donna Hearne. I had an acute understanding of what happens when a people and culture depart from the living God. Donna brought me to Eagle Council the following September and I was hooked. It was there that I met Phyllis Schlafly and Eunie Smith.



I went to the Missouri state capitol, quite possibly for the first time, and I learned how a bill became a law. I immediately became engaged in fighting the Equal Rights Amendment because of the clearcut arguments presented in the Phyllis Schlafly Report. I was impressed by how



concise and convincing Phyllis' reports were. My husband began to listen as I read to him from the Education Reporter. He decided he would run for the school board and later for the state legislature, where he served for 14 years. Education became the issue that we were passionate about and how the powerful NEA was negatively influencing education policies.

Although I was unsure I had the abilities necessary to be a state leader I began to practice the pointers gained in Eagle Forum state leader meetings. My public speaking improved after I followed Phyllis' example of how to get a point across in a minimum of words and I learned the power of volunteer lobbying both in our state capitol and in Washington D.C. The best weapon that Phyllis Schlafly so thoughtfully positioned was the group of dedicated volunteer women and also men who were attracted to her brilliant leadership. The networking of such people as Eunie Smith, Shirley Curry, Cathie Adams and Donna Hearne produced a cohesive movement that stopped what many people believed unstoppable: the Equal Rights Amendment. We lost the Panama Canal Giveaway battle but through the creation of the Republican National Coalition for Life we stopped what many thought was inevitable: that the Republican Party would become pro-abortion.



I learned that by getting involved in campaigns you were able to elect Congressmen, Senators and state legislators that reflected a Christian worldview. Sandy McDade of LA gave Julia Warton and me (pictured right) the tools that helped to elect a number of these people.

My life has never been the same since 1974. I would never want to miss Eagle Council if I was still breathing. After my family, the friendships I made in Eagle Forum that have endured for over 40 years are the most meaningful part of my life.

**Lois Linton - Missouri Eagle Forum**